

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
SY-05 HA-05 /074 W  
-----109031 060038Z /64

R 040931Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 332  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS PINT BG  
SUBJECT: CLASSES SUSPENDED AT DACCA UNIVERSITY

REF: DACCA 2449

1. CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY AT DACCA UNIVERSITY ON MONDAY, JULY 31. MOST STUDENTS HAVE REMAINED ON CAMPUS, AND THE SUSPENSION HAS NOT AFFECTED ADMINISTRATION OF BA, BA (HONS) AND MA EXAMINATIONS. NO OFFICIAL REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE ACTION, NOR WAS IT REPORTED IN THE BANGALI OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS. HOWEVER, DAILIES IN BOTH LANGUAGES HAVE REPORTED THE REACTIONS OF STUDENT GROUPS AND THE FACULTY, INCLUDING AN AUGUST 4 STATEMENT BY 35 DACCA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS CRITICIZING THE CLOSURE, AND APPEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT AN END TO THE "PRESENT REIGN OF TERROR ON THE CAMPUS."

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2. THE SUSPENSION FOLLOWS BY ONLY 27 DAYS THE REOPENING OF CLASSES AFTER AN EXTENDED SUMMER HOLIDAY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF VIOLENT CLASHES OF THE SORT THAT CLOSED THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE SUMMER PREMATURELY ON APRIL 19 (REFTEL). HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD THAT STUDENT POLITICAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE RECENTLY AND THAT

MANY OF THEM POSSESS ARMS. THEY HAVE THUS FAR ESCHEWED HIGHLY VISIBLE PROCESSIONS AND LARGE GATHERINGS BUT ARE SAID TO BE HOLDING MANY SMALL GROUP MEETINGS. THERE IS CONCERN THAT THESE MANEUVERINGS MAY DEVELOP INTO VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN PRO-MOSCOW STUDENT GROUPS, OF WHICH THE MOST PROMINENT IS THE FACTION OF THE CHHATRA (STUDENT) LEAGUE WHICH SUPPORTS THE AWAMI LEAGUE, AND THE CAMPUS' MANY PRO-PEKING GROUPS. POLICE HAVE BEEN STATIONED ON THE CAMPUS BUT THEY HAVE NOT INTERVENED IN CAMPUS ACTIVITIES OR CONFISCATED ANY WEAPONS.

3. THE SUSPENSION, COMING WITHOUT OUTWARDLY VISIBLE CAUSE OR EXPLANATION, HAS PUZZLED MUCH OF THE FACULTY AND NO DOUBT THE NONPOLITICAL MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WHOSE STUDIES WERE INTERRUPTED MUCH OF THE SPRING BY STUDENT STRIKES. ONE RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUSPENDED CLASSES BECAUSE IT IS PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE IN MID-MONTH THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN LATER SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER, AND STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE INTERIM WOULD BE UNWELCOME. WHILE THIS IS NOT THE FIRST SPECULATION WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE ELECTION DATE MAY BE MOVED FORWARD, THERE IS, AS YET, NO OTHER EVIDENCE THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN. IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN CONFRONTING INCIPIENT LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS ON CAMPUS BY SUCH TENSION-CREATING MEANS AS POLICE RAIDS AND ARRESTS, HAS CHOSEN

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TO DEAL WITH SUCH PROBLEMS BY THE FAMILIAR TOOL OF STOPPING CLASSES.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CLOSURE OF OFFICES, UNIVERSITIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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